

Westlands Water District



3130 N. Fresno St
P.O. Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703-6056
Phone: (559) 224-1523
Fax: (559) 241-6277

February 7, 2018

Hearing Officer Tam M. Doduc
Hearing Officer Felicia Marcus
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Via Email: CWFhearing@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: California WaterFix Change Petition – Policy Statement of Westlands Water District General Manager Thomas Birmingham

Dear Hearing Officers Doduc and Marcus,

Westlands Water District understands that the Department of Water Resources is now proposing a “staged” implementation of the California WaterFix. In the first stage, DWR would construct two intakes on the Sacramento River and a single 6,000 cubic feet per second tunnel. As a policy matter, Westlands supports this proposal, but not without some limitations.

That a single 6,000 cfs tunnel would reduce conflicts between efforts to convey State Water Project water through the Delta and efforts to protect at-risk fish species is beyond reasonable dispute. Moreover, a single 6,000 cfs tunnel would restore the ability of the State Water Project to make water available to millions of California residents and large regions of highly productive farm land.

However, it is not known how, if at all, a “staged” project would affect Central Valley Project water supplies. If DWR and the agencies served by the State Water Project want to implement a phased WaterFix, Westlands encourages their efforts, but not at the expense of Central Valley Project water supplies.

Westlands looks forward to learning more about the impacts of this “staged” project through this hearing process. It is Westlands’ hope that at the end of this hearing it can express unqualified support for the project because the District can have confidence that the “staged” project, and more particularly the conditions imposed by an order approving DWR’s change petition, will not further reduce Central Valley Project water supplies.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W. Birmingham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Thomas W. Birmingham
General Manager
Westlands Water District